

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 606

By Casada

A RESOLUTION recognizing Valley View Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Wood family certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Valley View Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1827, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, located twenty miles southeast of Franklin, Valley View Farm was founded in 1827 by Allen F. Wood; Mr. Wood raised livestock on the 50-acre farm, which he later expanded to 147 acres; and

WHEREAS, the next owner of the farm, who inherited the land in 1881, was Allen Wood's daughter, Mary Ann Wood Sanford, who was married to Reuben Sanford and had four children; during Mrs. Sanford's ownership, Valley View farm became a self-sustaining property, producing wheat, corn, hay, cattle, swine, and chickens; and

WHEREAS, the next owner of the farm was Robert Sanford, the great-grandson of the founder, who inherited the land in 1945; he expanded the property to over 200 acres, and specialized in producing beef cattle and hay; and

WHEREAS, today, Kerry and Sharon Connell own the farm; the original log dwelling, built in 1827, remains on the property as one of the rooms of their current home; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Wood family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owners Kerry and Sharon Connell, whose Valley View Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend Mr. and Mrs. Connell and their family for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.